

Listing of Claims

1. ~ 11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A system for providing automatic and coordinated sharing of conversational resources, comprising:

a client comprising local conversational resources and a dialog manager for managing the local conversational resources, processing a request for a conversational service, and determining if a request for a conversational service can be performed using the local conversational resources; and

a server comprising server conversational resources, wherein the dialog manager of the client will automatically access the server for processing the request using the server conversational resources if the requested conversational service cannot be performed using the local conversational resources.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 13, further comprising the step of transmitting messages using conversational protocols to establish coordinated network communication between the first and at least second network device for sharing the conversational resources.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 13~~ A method for providing automatic and coordinated sharing of conversational resources between network devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a conversational service by a first network device;

determining by the first network device whether to process the requested conversational service one of locally using conversational resources of the first network device, remotely using conversational resources of at least a second network device, or locally and remotely using both

the local and remote conversational resources; and

automatically communicating with the at least second network device, if it is determined that the conversational service will be processed, at least in part, remotely using the conversational resources of the at least second network device,

wherein the step of determining comprises the steps of determining whether local conversational resources are available for processing the requested conversational service; and wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

executing the requested conversational service using the local conversational resources, if it is determined that local conversational resources are available for processing the requested conversational service;

determining if results of the local processing is acceptable; and

automatically accessing the at least second network device to remotely process the requested conversational service, if it is determined that the results of the local processing are not acceptable.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of automatically accessing comprises the steps of:

automatically establishing a network connection with the at least second network device by transmitting messages using the conversational protocols; and

transmitting ~~one of~~ compressed speech features or ~~and~~ a compressed waveform to the at least second network device.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 21 ~~19~~, further comprising instructions for performing the step of transmitting messages according to conversational protocols to establish coordinated network communication between the first and at least second network device for sharing the conversational resources.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The program storage device of claim 19~~ A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing automatic and coordinated sharing of conversational resources between network devices, the method steps comprising:

receiving a request for a conversational service by a first network device;

determining by the first network device whether to process the requested conversational service one of locally using conversational resources of the first network device, remotely using conversational resources of at least a second network device, or locally and remotely using both the local and remote conversational resources; and

automatically communicating with the at least second network device, if it is determined that the conversational service will be processed, at least in part, remotely using the conversational resources of the at least second network device,

wherein the instructions for performing the determining step comprise instructions for performing the steps of determining whether local conversational resources are available for processing the requested conversational service; and wherein the program storage device further comprises instructions for performing the steps of:

executing the requested conversational service using the local conversational resources, if it is determined that local conversational resources are available for processing the requested conversational service;

determining if results of the local processing is acceptable; and

automatically accessing the at least second network device to remotely process the requested conversational service, if it is determined that the results of the local processing are not acceptable.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The program storage device method of claim 20, wherein the instructions for performing the step of automatically accessing comprise instructions for performing the steps of:

automatically establishing a network connection with the at least second network device using the conversational protocols; and

transmitting ~~one of~~ compressed speech features or ~~and~~ a compressed waveform to the at least second network device.